

After members of our military have honorably served this great nation and want to start a life with their family, our country should provide them with the assistance to do so.

When some of our veterans return from battle, their fight continues. Whether it is wrestling with the effects of PTSD or struggling to reintegrate into civilian life, it is Congress's responsibility to help them and that is what the Homes for Heroes Act does.

I am very proud of what this bill accomplishes, such as the assistance provided to low-income vets, the HUD-VA liaison created for state and local governments, and the additional services provided to veterans with mental and addictive disorders.

As the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee under Veterans Affairs, I am aware of the unique issues facing veterans, and I thank Representative GREEN for introducing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3329.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3329, the "Homes for Heroes Act." I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to support our troops in their efforts to obtain homes. I thank my friend Congressman AL GREEN for this thoughtful legislation.

This important piece of legislation amends the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act to establish in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs to: (1) ensure veteran access to HUD housing and homeless assistance programs; (2) coordinate all HUD programs and activities relating to veterans; and (3) serve as a HUD liaison with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This legislation, directs the HUD Secretary to provide assistance to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives to expand the supply of supportive housing for very low-income veteran families (that is, families with incomes not exceeding 50 percent of the area median income).

H.R. 3326, amends the United States Housing Act of 1937 to: (1) make housing rental vouchers available to homeless veterans; and (2) include veterans in public housing planning.

Excludes veterans' benefits from income for purposes of HUD assisted housing rental determinations.

This legislation requires the Secretary to: (1) make grants to nonprofit entities for technical assistance in sponsoring HUD housing projects for veterans; and (2) report annually to specified congressional committees and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on HUD activities relating to veterans.

I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to ensuring that we respect our veterans. Veterans have kept their promise to serve our nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans.

Currently, there are 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. I hope we will all take the time to show appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As the great British leader Winston Churchill famously stated,

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

With the approval of legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, himself a decorated veteran of war, issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated in part: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose." It was with that endearing spirit that America celebrated the first Veterans Day.

We must always remember the debt that we owe our fallen veterans that have paid the ultimate sacrifice. From the four surviving World War I veterans known to be living in the United States, to the over 300,000 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom we expect to see by the end of 2008. Our gratitude must continue to be unwavering to our soldiers and veterans.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is not simply enough to sing the praises of our nation's great veterans; I firmly believe that we must demonstrate by our actions how proud we are of our American heroes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I believe it is necessary for the nation to act now so that we all can pay respect, tribute, and homage to the lives of the armed services veterans who have fought to keep America free and have fought to make sure that all people and nations partake in the universal freedoms that we find so important in this country. These individuals have given so much and have paid us the ultimate sacrifice: the sacrifice of their lives. The least that we can do, is ensure that these veterans are able to secure homes when they return home from battle. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3329, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AMERICA'S BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL PARKS QUARTER DOLLAR COIN ACT OF 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6184) to provide

for a program for circulating quarter dollar coins that are emblematic of a national park or other national site in each State, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6184

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008".

TITLE I—NATIONAL SITE QUARTER DOLLARS

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Yellowstone National Park was established by an Act signed by President Ulysses S. Grant on March 1, 1872, as the Nation's first national park.

(2) The summer and autumn of 1890 saw the establishment of a number of national sites:

(A) August 19: Chickamauga and Chattanooga established as national military parks in Georgia and Tennessee.

(B) August 30: Antietam established as a national battlefield site in Maryland.

(C) September 25: Sequoia National Park established in California.

(D) September 27: Rock Creek Park established in the District of Columbia.

(E) October 1: General Grant National Park established in California (and subsequently incorporated in Kings Canyon National Park).

(F) October 1: Yosemite National Park established in California.

(3) Theodore Roosevelt was this nation's 26th President and is considered by many to be our "Conservationist President".

(4) As a frequent visitor to the West, Theodore Roosevelt witnessed the virtual destruction of some big game species and the overgrazing that destroyed the grasslands and with them the habitats for small mammals and songbirds and conservation increasingly became one of his major concerns.

(5) When he became President in 1901, Roosevelt pursued this interest in conservation by establishing the first 51 Bird Reserves, 4 Game Preserves, and 150 National Forests.

(6) He also established the United States Forest Service, signed into law the creation of 5 National Parks, and signed the Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities in 1906 under which he proclaimed 18 national monuments.

(7) Approximately 230,000,000 acres of area within the United States was placed under public protection by Theodore Roosevelt.

(8) Theodore Roosevelt said that nothing short of defending this country in wartime "compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us".

(9) The National Park Service was created by an Act signed by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916.

(10) The National Park System comprises 391 areas covering more than 84,000,000 acres in every State (except Delaware), the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

(11) The sites or areas within the National Park System vary widely in size and type from vast natural wilderness to birthplaces of Presidents to world heritage archaeology sites to an African burial ground memorial in Manhattan and include national parks,

monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House.

(12) In addition to the sites within the National Park System, the United States has placed numerous other types of sites under various forms of conservancy, such as the national forests and sites within the National Wildlife Refuge System and on the National Register of Historic Places.

SEC. 102. ISSUANCE OF REDESIGNED QUARTER DOLLARS EMBLEMATIC OF NATIONAL PARKS OR OTHER NATIONAL SITES IN EACH STATE, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND EACH TERRITORY.

Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(t) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF QUARTER DOLLARS EMBLEMATIC OF NATIONAL SITES IN EACH STATE, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND EACH TERRITORY.—

“(1) REDESIGN BEGINNING UPON COMPLETION OF PRIOR PROGRAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the fourth sentence of subsection (d)(1) and subsection (d)(2), quarter dollars issued beginning in 2010 shall have designs on the reverse selected in accordance with this subsection which are emblematic of the national sites in the States, the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States.

“(B) FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO PLACEMENT OF INSCRIPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1), the Secretary may select a design for quarter dollars referred to in subparagraph (A) in which—

“(i) the inscription described in the second sentence of subsection (d)(1) appears on the reverse side of any such quarter dollars; and

“(ii) any inscription described in the third sentence of subsection (d)(1) or the designation of the value of the coin appears on the obverse side of any such quarter dollars.

“(C) INCLUSION OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND TERRITORIES.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘State’ has the same meaning as in section 3(a)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

“(2) SINGLE SITE IN EACH STATE.—The design on the reverse side of each quarter dollar issued during the period of issuance under this subsection shall be emblematic of 1 national site in each State.

“(3) SELECTION OF SITE AND DESIGN.—

“(A) SITE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The selection of a national park or other national site in each State to be honored with a coin under this subsection shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the governor or other chief executive of each State with respect to which a coin is to be issued under this subsection, and after giving full and thoughtful consideration to national sites that are not under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior so that the national site chosen for each State shall be the most appropriate in terms of natural or historic significance.

“(ii) TIMING.—The selection process under clause (i) shall be completed before the end of the 270-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of the America’s Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008.

“(B) DESIGN.—Each of the designs required under this subsection for quarter dollars shall be—

“(i) selected by the Secretary after consultation with—

“(I) the Secretary of the Interior; and

“(II) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

“(ii) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

“(C) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Recommendations for site selections and designs for quarter dollars may be submitted in accordance with the site and design selection and approval process developed by the Secretary in the sole discretion of the Secretary.

“(D) PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN.—The Secretary may include participation by officials of the State, artists from the State, engravers of the United States Mint, and members of the general public.

“(E) STANDARDS.—Because it is important that the Nation’s coinage and currency bear dignified designs of which the citizens of the United States can be proud, the Secretary shall not select any frivolous or inappropriate design for any quarter dollar minted under this subsection.

“(F) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REPRESENTATIONS.—No head and shoulders portrait or bust of any person, living or dead, no portrait of a living person, and no outline or map of a State may be included in the design on the reverse of any quarter dollar under this subsection.

“(4) ISSUANCE OF COINS.—

“(A) ORDER OF ISSUANCE.—The quarter dollar coins issued under this subsection bearing designs of national sites shall be issued in the order in which the sites selected under paragraph (3) were first established as a national site.

“(B) RATE OF ISSUANCE.—The quarter dollar coins bearing designs of national sites under this subsection shall be issued at the rate of 5 new designs during each year of the period of issuance under this subsection.

“(C) NUMBER OF EACH OF 5 COIN DESIGNS IN EACH YEAR.—Of the quarter dollar coins issued during each year of the period of issuance, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe, on the basis of such factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the number of quarter dollars which shall be issued with each of the designs selected for such year.

“(5) TREATMENT AS NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136, all coins minted under this subsection shall be considered to be numismatic items.

“(6) ISSUANCE.—

“(A) QUALITY OF COINS.—The Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (3) in uncirculated and proof qualities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(B) SILVER COINS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (3) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, with a content of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

“(7) PERIOD OF ISSUANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the program established under this subsection shall continue in effect until a national site in each State has been honored.

“(B) SECOND ROUND AT DISCRETION OF SECRETARY.—

“(i) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary may make a determination before the end of the 9-year period beginning when the first quarter dollar is issued under this subsection to continue the period of issuance until a second national site in each State, the District of Columbia, and each territory referred to in this subsection has been honored with a design on a quarter dollar.

“(ii) NOTICE AND REPORT.—Within 30 days after making a determination under clause (i), the Secretary shall submit a written report on such determination to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

“(iii) APPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS.—If the Secretary makes a determination under clause (i), the provisions of this subsection applicable to site and design selection and approval, the order, timing, and conditions of issuance shall apply in like manner as the initial issuance of quarter dollars under this subsection, except that the issuance of quarter dollars pursuant to such determination bearing the first design shall commence in order immediately following the last issuance of quarter dollars under the first round.

“(iv) CONTINUATION UNTIL ALL STATES ARE HONORED.—If the Secretary makes a determination under clause (i), the program under this subsection shall continue until a second site in each State has been so honored.

“(8) DESIGNS AFTER END OF PROGRAM.—Upon the completion of the coin program under this subsection, the design on—

“(A) the obverse of the quarter dollar shall revert to the same design containing an image of President Washington in effect for the quarter dollar before the institution of the 50-State quarter dollar program; and

“(B) notwithstanding the fourth sentence of subsection (d)(1), the reverse of the quarter dollar shall contain an image of General Washington crossing the Delaware River prior to the Battle of Trenton.

“(9) NATIONAL SITE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘national site’ means any site under the supervision, management, or conservancy of the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or any similar department or agency of the Federal Government, including any national park, national monument, national battlefield, national military park, national historical park, national historic site, national lakeshore, seashore, recreation area, parkway, scenic river, or trail and any site in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

“(10) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF INDEPENDENCE.—If any territory becomes independent or otherwise ceases to be a territory or possession of the United States before quarter dollars bearing designs which are emblematic of such territory are minted pursuant to this subsection, this subsection shall cease to apply with respect to such territory.”

TITLE II—BULLION INVESTMENT PRODUCTS

SEC. 201. SILVER BULLION COIN.

Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (t) (as added by title I of this Act) the following new subsection:

“(u) SILVER BULLION INVESTMENT PRODUCT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall strike and make available for sale such number of bullion coins as the Secretary determines to be appropriate that are exact duplicates of the quarter dollars issued under subsection (t), each of which shall—

“(A) have a diameter of 3.0 inches and weigh 5.0 ounces;

“(B) contain .999 fine silver;

“(C) have incused into the edge the fineness and weight of the bullion coin;

“(D) bear an inscription of the denomination of such coin, which shall be ‘quarter dollar’; and

“(E) not be minted or issued by the United States Mint as so-called ‘fractional’ bullion coins or in any size other than the size described in paragraph (A).

“(2) AVAILABILITY FOR SALE.—Bullion coins minted under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall become available for sale no sooner than the first day of the calendar year in which the circulating quarter dollar

of which such bullion coin is a duplicate is issued; and

“(B) may only be available for sale during the year in which such circulating quarter dollar is issued.

“(3) DISTRIBUTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the authorized dealers utilized by the Secretary in distributing bullion coins and solely for purposes of distributing bullion coins issued under this subsection, the Director of the National Park Service, or the designee of the Director, may purchase numismatic items issued under this subsection, but only in units of no fewer than 1,000 at a time, and the Director, or the Director's designee, may resell or repackaging such numismatic items as the Director determines to be appropriate.

“(B) RESALE.—The Director of the National Park Service, or the designee of the Director, may resell, at cost and without repackaging, numismatic items acquired by the Director or such designee under subparagraph (A) to any party affiliated with any national site honored by a quarter dollar under subsection (t) for repackaging and resale by such party in the same manner and to the same extent as such party would be authorized to engage in such activities under subparagraph (A) if the party were acting as the designee of the Director under such subparagraph.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent all that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and insert any extraneous material as they so wish.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6184, America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act, introduced by my good friend and colleague from Delaware, Congressman CASTLE.

I have had the great pleasure to work with Mr. CASTLE on several coin bills of this nature in the past, the very successful State quarters and most recently the Presidential dollars. I am proud to be the Democratic lead sponsor of this bill, and I am happy to report that it has strong bipartisan support, as shown by the fact that it passed out of the Financial Services Committee on a unanimous vote in support.

I want to thank Congressman CASTLE for all of his hard work on this legislation, as well as Chairman FRANK for his support, and the support of the staff of the Financial Services Committee and our individual staffs for their hard work on this bill. Of course, all of us love our national parks, and especially those of our home State, which will be honored on each of these coins.

Beginning in 2010, new quarters will bear a design representing a national park or site in each State and the District of Columbia at the rate of 5 new designs a year. The sites will be selected at the beginning of the process by the Secretary of the Treasury in consultation with the States, and the coins will be minted in the order in which the sites selected were established as national sites, which I think is a very clever touch.

As a former teacher and educator, I am always excited about the new designs on everyday coins because they encourage more Americans of all ages to pay attention to the coins in your pockets and learn a few facts about what is depicted. I can say of the very successful State quarter program, it became a very popular teaching tool. Many teachers devised lesson plans around the quarters, and many of my constituents collected these coins. My own daughter had a book with each of the quarters in it; and many people would ask me, when is the next quarter coming out? And because it was so successful, the 50 State quarter program raised \$6.2 billion over the past 10 years of its life span which is just ending this year. And we can hope that we will have similar results from this series of coins.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation. It is an education tool. It also will generate needed revenues for our Treasury.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6184, the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008, which I am pleased to support with my friends, the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), and I appreciate her kind comments here on the floor, and the gentleman from Chicago (Mr. GUTIERREZ).

This is an easy bill to understand and I hope an easy bill to like. It was popular enough, as the Congresswoman from New York pointed out, in committee to have passed by a 58-0 vote 2 weeks ago.

We all know the popular 50 State quarters program which sequentially honored every State in the Union with a design of its choosing on the back of the quarter. There are just two more States, Alaska and Hawaii, to be honored. Next year, there will be quarters honoring the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the territories, and the program will be done.

Mr. Speaker, the 50 State quarters program met or exceeded every goal. It honored every State in such a way that educated the rest of the country about things that made that particular State so special. The national parks quarters program is a follow-up to the State quarters, and I believe nothing could be more logical than recognizing the sites all America hold most dear, places like Yosemite, Yellowstone, or Glacier National Park.

The national parks quarters program will focus on the great natural beauty of our country or on other national sites important to history or conservation, such as seashores, forests, wildlife refugees, or monuments.

Just to mix things up a little, instead of honoring the States in the order they were admitted to the Union, this legislation honors national sites in the order in which they were recognized. I note with some chagrin but in the spirit of fairness, Mr. Speaker, that this will honor the western States that joined the Union later before the original 13 States, and ensures that my own State of Delaware will not again be first. As a matter of fact, we do not have a national park; we will be last in this particular sequence.

The bill also creates a special new investment-grade coin that will be three inches in diameter and made of five ounces of silver. These noncirculating coins will bear exact duplicates of each quarter and will be available only in the year in which the equivalent quarter's design is issued. Although normally our investment-grade coins are distributed only through a small network of highly specialized dealers, this legislation allows the National Park Service to buy these bullion coins in bulk so they may be sold as souvenirs to visitors.

The national park quarters program will start in 2010, after the completion of D.C. and the territories quarters, which is why it is so important for us to send this bill to the Senate and President quickly. We must ensure adequate time is given for the United States Mint to work with the Interior Secretary, other Federal officials, and State Governors to honor the best sites and choose each design. The Mint has done a terrific job with the State quarters, and I have great faith that the artists, engravers, and the excellent staff there will do a great job for this program as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to work on this effort with Mrs. MALONEY, who joined me as a tireless and skilled supporter of the Presidential \$1 Coin Act and with Mr. GUTIERREZ who chairs the Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee that I once chaired. Their input and suggestions from the Mint before introduction of this bill have certainly improved it. I would also like to thank Chairman FRANK for his willingness to move this bill along. I urge immediate passage of this bill, and urge the other body to move it on as swiftly as well.

I would point out to the Speaker that the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the territories are included already in this legislation, which they were not originally as we know in the 50 State quarters program.

I yield to Mr. PRICE such time as he may consume.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership on this issue, the national parks quarter bill. We have in

my district the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, which is under the National Park Service, the longest linear park in the Nation, 48-mile linear park, and so I am pleased to support this bill.

The concern that I have, however, about the national parks is that, Mr. Speaker, more and more Americans aren't able to get to them, and they aren't able to get to them because of the price of gasoline. And so what we ought to be doing here as the House of Representatives, in addition to recognizing the wonderful work of the National Park Service, is to do all that we can to make certain that the number one issue of Americans across this Nation is addressed. That issue is energy policy and gas prices. So I come to the well today to lend my support to those who are trying to move forward in a positive way as it relates to energy policy for our Nation.

We have, Mr. Speaker, as you know, a number of bills that aren't being brought to the floor because the Speaker doesn't want them to come to the floor, is not interested in increasing supply of oil for Americans, American energy for Americans. There are a number of discharge petitions, which is the only avenue that Members of the House have when their bills are bottled up when they can't get to the floor. We have four of them that are available right now.

One is the No More Excuses Energy Act that would increase the ability of new refineries to be brought on line in the United States. Mr. Speaker, we haven't had a new refinery built in this Nation in over 30 years, and the problem with that is that we can't get product to the retail market. We cannot increase the supply if you don't have increase in refineries. That is H.R. 3089.

Mr. Speaker, there is another one, H.R. 2279, which would expand the refining capacity on closed military installations, one of those that allows for increasing refining capacity on land that is currently not even being used, Federal land that is not being used. And this is important as it relates to national parks, because again, Mr. Speaker, my constituents are having trouble getting to the national parks because of the price of gasoline. And this House is not acting because the leadership, the Speaker and her leadership, are not interested in bringing forward bills that increase supply.

Another one is H.R. 5656, which would repeal the ban on acquiring alternative fuels. Mr. Speaker, we were home last week, and one of the things I heard from my constituents as I know folks heard all across this Nation is: You have got to solve the energy problems. You have got to solve the gas price problem.

One of the ways to do that is to conserve. Yes, there is no doubt about it. Another way is to increase supply. We have talked a lot about that. Another way in the long run is to make certain that we have got the kind of tech-

nology available to provide for alternative fuel.

This is a bill, H.R. 5656, that would allow for increasing accessibility to mechanisms to bring alternative fuels on line, diverse sources of fuels like oil shale and tar sands and coal-to-liquid technology.

I was surprised to learn, Mr. Speaker, as I know you were that the United States has one of the largest resources of oil shale in the world. In the world. So much so that the estimate is that we could get over 2 trillion barrels of oil out of the oil shale, oil sands that is American resource. American resource.

Now, 2 trillion is a big number. It has got a lot of zeroes after it. What does it really mean, 2 trillion barrels of oil? Well, just to put it in perspective, Mr. Speaker, the world has used 1 trillion barrels of oil since 1875. Mr. Speaker, the world has used 1 trillion barrels of oil since 1875. We Americans possess, our natural resources, the ability to gain 2 trillion barrels of oil without any influence from a foreign source, without utilizing any foreign source or any foreign technology. We could do that right now if we were able to have this House and Senate act.

So this is remarkable, remarkable information. It is important that the Members of the House know this. It is important that all Americans know this. Because we have within our capacity the ability to become not just less reliant on foreign oil but self-sufficient on American oil. American energy for Americans. That is what it is all about. That is what we hear when we go home.

So why, Mr. Speaker, why will this House not be allowed to vote on H.R. 5656? Or H.R. 2279? Or H.R. 3089? Or the one that has brought a discharge petition this week H.R. 2208, which is the Coal to Liquid Fuel Act, which would reduce the price of gasoline by encouraging the use of clean coal technology?

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Mr. Speaker, as you also know, we in the United States possess the world's largest reserves of coal, and technology has changed so drastically over the past 20 to 30 years, that now it is possible in an environmentally sensitive and sound way, and responsible way, to gain natural gas, to gain gasoline from liquid coal, from coal-to-liquid technology, energy for Americans, American energy for Americans.

But what is happening here in the House of Representatives when it comes to energy policy? Nothing, Mr. Speaker. Nothing. And so when I went home last week, I know I heard what all of our colleagues did, and that is the House has got to act. The House has got to act. The frustration level of the American people is huge. And it ought to be. Their anger is huge, and it ought to be.

I encourage my colleagues to communicate to the Speaker's office, to let the Speaker know that we want to vote on these bills. I don't know how the

vote will turn out, but I do know that the constituents of my district and the constituents of districts all across this Nation want to know how their Member will vote on these bills. It is imperative, American energy for Americans.

Once again, I want to thank my good friend from Delaware for providing me this time, and getting to the issue of the national parks in a little side way manner, but I think it is important. I think it is important because our constituents, I know, want us to solve the issue of energy so they can visit the national parks, the beautiful national parks all across this Nation.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield back our time at this point.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to my dear friend and colleague on the other side of the aisle who has attacked the Speaker of this House really unfairly and with false statements.

The point is and the reality is that we have two oil men in the White House and their policies are the ones that have benefited Big Oil and hurt the American consumer. Now under the leadership of the Democratic Speaker and the New Direction Congress, we have been passing solutions for the first time to help American consumers and to help this country move into the 21st century with policies that are important for conserving energy, renewable energy, efficient technologies, and reducing energy prices for the long run.

No, I will not yield. I have my time; you had yours.

First of all what, the New Direction Congress passed was the first new vehicle fuel-efficiency standards in 32 years. We also passed an historic commitment to affordable American-grown biofuels. If the other side of the aisle was interested in moving us into the 21st century and conserving energy, why in the world didn't they pass new vehicle fuel-efficiency standards? We passed it. This Congress passed it. The Democrats passed it, and are forcing the car builders and others to move in with fuel-efficient standards.

We also took action to lower gas prices by suspending oil purchasing for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. These are very important initiatives.

Now the gentleman on the other side of the aisle, my very good friend, talked about the need to build new refineries. Well, ExxonMobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, BP and Shell have publicly stated that they have no plans to build new refineries; instead, they prefer to expand existing facilities. These are their statements. Shell and BP all testified that they were unaware of any environmental regulations preventing them from building new refineries or expanding old ones. They can do that now.

Internal memos from oil companies make it very clear that oil companies decided that they needed to reduce refinery capacity to drive up their profits. And the New Direction Congress is

continuing to bring real relief to those feeling the pinch of the high gas and diesel prices, and ensuring the needs of families and businesses are put before the interests of Big Oil companies.

Now my dear friend on the other side of the aisle talks about drilling, drilling, drilling, drilling, as if we could drill ourselves out of the challenges we face.

The fact is that there are over 68 million acres on shore and offshore in the United States of America that are currently leased by oil companies and they are open to drilling and actually under a lease to do so but are not developed. Now we are talking about leases on 68 million acres of land that is owned by the American people. Now what Chairman RAHALL says is use it or lose it, and I think he is absolutely correct. I support his bill, to say that you either drill on those 68 million acres or you give up your lease and let someone else drill there. That's what the Democrats are saying. We are not going to hand out more leases to the oil companies on public land that is owned by the public and is the land and the reserves of this country. We are saying to them if you have a lease, you use that lease. You drill. You're not going to get another one. And if you're not going to drill, then let's put it out for competitive bid and let someone else come forward and drill on that land.

The fact is that 80 percent of the oil available on the Outer Continental Shelf is in regions that are already open to leasing, but the oil companies haven't decided if it is worth their time to drill there. The fact is that drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge wouldn't yield any oil for 10 years, and then would only save the customer, the consumer, 1.8 cents per gallon in 2025. The fact is that America uses a quarter of the world's oil consumption every day, but only 1.6 percent of the world's supply, so there is simply no way to drill ourselves to a solution.

I repeat, while my colleagues were running this body, where were their solutions? I didn't see any. I didn't see them raising the mile per gallon of gas, I didn't see them conserving. I didn't see them investing in biofuels or moving forward with innovative energy solutions, as this new Democratic leadership has been doing. They have just held onto the failed policies of the past which have gotten us to where we are. As I repeat, we have two oil men in the White House that have been behind these policies.

So I would say that the Democratic leadership has done a great deal to help the American consumer. They are facing many challenges. Their wages are stagnant. The price of gasoline is now over \$4 a gallon. The price of milk is over \$4 a gallon. So they are facing really inflation and many, many challenges.

The Democratic leadership has come forward with a stimulus package to help the American taxpayer, the Amer-

ican citizen. We have come forward with a fuel-efficiency standard. We have come forward with many hearings today on the possible manipulation of oil in the futures market so that we can curb those abuses if they are documented. We are for drilling on the 68 million acres that are currently under contract and should be drilled on.

So this Congress, I congratulate the leadership of Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats and the relevant committees. We have passed legislation, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. We have passed the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act. We have passed the Energy Price Gouging Prevention Act which will provide consumer relief by giving the Federal Trade Commission the authority to investigate and punish those who artificially inflate energy prices. President Bush has threatened a veto of this very common-sense consumer protection measure.

So I say with all due respect to my wonderful colleagues and friends on the other side of the aisle, where were your ideas when you could pass them? Where are your ideas now? The ones that we are passing that helps the consumer and moves this country into the 21st century, and that makes a profitable use of land that is owned by the American people instead of giving more, and in many cases in a no-bid process to oil companies who are just sitting on it and not doing anything to help the American consumer.

So I would say you brought it up, so I am just responding to some of your allegations.

I feel this is such an important issue that I would like to yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague from the great State of New York, Congressman SERRANO, on H.R. 6184, and I thank him for his leadership on this important bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSS). All Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to try something innovative. I want to discuss the bill before us and not this other discussion we had on drilling. While I understand the importance of it, we were discussing a bill, for those Americans who were watching who might have forgotten by now, on putting national parks on the backs of quarters. And I want to congratulate both Mr. CASTLE and Mrs. MALONEY and the committee for including the Territories. As the gentleman from Delaware stated, he alluded to the Speaker and the fact that I have great concern about the involvement of the Territories and the recognition.

When the original quarters program came about, I was dismayed at the fact that the territories and the District of Columbia were not included. Last year in an appropriations bill, we expanded the program to include D.C. and the Territories.

What you have done today is you have picked up on that and now have

started a new era, I believe, where the Territories and the District of Columbia will become part of every discussion we have here from postage stamps to coins to, in many other areas, fairness across the board.

When that first quarter comes out, both the one for the national parks and the one for the regular quarters program with Puerto Rico on it, since Puerto Rico is of great concern to me, having been born there before moving to New York, many people throughout the country will actually ask, Why is Puerto Rico on the back of a quarter in the United States? And that will start a proper discussion as to the fact that we not only include in the American family the 50 States, but we include the District of Columbia and the Territories. That in the Territories are American citizens, American citizens who served this country at wartime and peacetime, and who, in fact, at any moment can participate in all parts of American society but are always forgotten.

So something as symbolic and perhaps to some people as unimportant as making sure that when these quarters come out with national parks, they include Puerto Rico and the Territories, is very important.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman for his statement. He has been a strong advocate for the Territories. He raises and highlights an important point that the Territories are included, and I appreciate his recognizing the many contributions from the citizens of Puerto Rico and other Territories to our great country.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time and urge my colleagues to support this creative bill that is before us. I hope that it passes unanimously and moves to the Senate with swift passage.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, may I ask for a point of clarification.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Delaware.

Mr. CASTLE. About 10 or 15 minutes ago, I said I was prepared to yield back the balance of my time. I don't know if there was a ruling on that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman ask unanimous consent to reclaim his time?

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I do object. We have a system. We have gone through it, and I feel we should move to a vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, could I get a clarification.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Delaware.

Mr. CASTLE. I'm not certain I yielded back the balance of my time. I don't

know who was responsible in the Chair at that point, but I indicated I was prepared to yield back. I'm not sure if there was a ruling at that time. Could that be clarified.

□ 1415

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair heard the gentleman utter the words that he did yield back the balance of his time.

Mr. CASTLE. The words I uttered were, "I am prepared to yield back the balance of my time." And then I believe the gentlewoman from New York was called on at that point without the ruling from the Chair. That's why I am asking for the clarification.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. If the gentleman feels so strongly about it, he has worked so hard on this bill, it's a successful bill, and we hope to have another successful bill, so I will allow the gentleman to reclaim his time.

I would inquire how much time remains on both sides, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York, who has yielded back the balance of her time, had 6½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Delaware had 9½ minutes remaining before he yielded back the balance of his time.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask for reciprocity. If he is reclaiming his time, then I would like to reclaim my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Delaware ask unanimous consent to reclaim his time?

Mr. CASTLE. I do ask unanimous consent to reclaim our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentlewoman from New York ask unanimous consent to reclaim her time?

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I do ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware.

Mr. CASTLE. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

At this time I would yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) such time as he may consume.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Delaware and congratulate him and our colleague from New York on this legislation and just advise the body that Oregon, once again, is in the lead when it comes to recognizing national parks as our quarter. The design for the back of it for our State was processed through a very public effort. They picked Crater Lake National Park as the park to recognize on the back of the quarter. And so we're already in the lead, and it's a wonderful

national park; and as my colleague from Georgia talked about earlier, it's also one you have to drive a great distance to get to.

When I was in my home county this last week, diesel was \$5.08 a gallon. Gasoline was \$4.39 a gallon. And if this is the result of the new Democratic direction for the Congress and for the country, then I hope we're at about the end of this new direction because it's taken us to a dead-end.

Now, I just wanted to point out a clarification, I guess, in terms of these leases we've heard so much about. My understanding is that when the Democrats were last in charge, they actually voted a law to extend the length of those leases that the oil companies had. And I would like to see them, the oil companies, process these leases and move forward with development because that's what I think America needs, more energy, more American energy. And yet this Congress has refused to even allow a vote, afraid to even allow a vote on accessing the 85 percent of the offshore resource that is not available. It's not available. And if the argument is that we would be better off by accessing the leases already there, then the argument really is adding to supply matters and that adding to supply will result in lower gas and lower diesel costs.

So then it seems logical to presume that accessing America's great reserves, the Outer Continental Shelf, would not only create new oil and gas supplies for America and American consumers, it would also generate royalty dollars for government services.

I have been working on legislation that would deal with the twin issues of energy policy for America that creates new gas, new diesel, new access to oil, as well as fund the biggest investment in renewable energy this Congress has seen and help those lowest income among us with their home heating bills and take care of the neglected challenge this Congress has refused to take up and pass, and that is help for our counties that are dominated by Federal lands.

So we would pay for 5 years in county timber payments. We would fully fund the commitment to rural counties for payment in lieu of taxes. We would put \$1 billion into LIHEAP and \$3.1 billion into developing renewable energy.

Now, my colleague from New York said, What did Republicans do when they were in charge? Well, we passed bill after bill after bill that raised conservation standards on appliances. We invested in the newest and futuristic technology trying to drive the basic science in hydrogen fuel cell development. We supported efforts to extend successfully, I might add, the tax credits for wind energy and geothermal and solar and the things that I think will give us a great future in renewable energy.

But we have a here-and-today problem that this Congress and its leadership fails to address. I don't know

where my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were over the Fourth of July, but I was home with real people. They're hurting. There are truckers who are losing their jobs. There are farmers who tell me it costs hundreds of dollars to fill a tank in their tractor, and fertilizer has doubled in cost. There are families who can't go to their kids' summer games because it costs \$87 to fill the Voyager van. If this is the new direction that the Democrats in this Congress have for America, I've got to tell you it's a dead-end direction and it needs to change.

Why not give us at least the opportunity in this great House, this great place where Americans come together to debate issues, to at least allow a vote to access the energy reserves we know are out there on Federal land or in the Outer Continental Shelf, up in Alaska? And if it fails, it fails. The Congress will have spoken in the House. But so far we have gone through, as a result of the Democrat leadership, the most incredible—this reminds me of the game of Twister. We are so convoluted and upside down and twisted to avoid any vote that it is reprehensible.

So, Mr. Speaker, I both support not only the act before us today, but I call for this House to at least allow a vote that I think would not only be bipartisan, as it was in 2006 when we passed, in this House, overwhelmingly with 40 Democrats supporting our efforts to get at our offshore oil resource. It would be an overwhelming bipartisan vote. And isn't that what democracy is really all about? You put an issue up on the table, you allow a vote, and we live with the outcome.

So I ask for that opportunity, Mr. Speaker, just as we're voting today on this wonderful bill to allow national parks to have a coin. As I said, Oregon has been at the forefront on that issue just as we are on renewable energy. Let's have a vote. Let's not have a vote like we had when we passed the Energy Act of 2007 that said if another country is making oil from tar sands, don't let the American military use it. Or like was stuffed in that bill a provision that said if you could take woody biomass and turn it into an ethanol-like fuel, don't count that against the ethanol fuel standard. Why is that in there?

Why can't you use the great resource of our American forests, convert them into ethanol using cellulosic technology, which Republicans and Democrats both agree need to happen? But then to say, Oh, but if you succeed at that, it doesn't count towards this out-of-control ethanol standard because we wouldn't want to count woody biomass off of Federal forests or unless it's specifically grown for that purpose, as ethanol, it can be used for a fuel standard in America. No. We would rather rely on corn, I guess. And that hasn't helped us a lot.

So I think we have invested in new technologies when Republicans were in control. We invested in new science.

We also tried to expedite access to America's great reserves. Every other country on the planet that has an ocean exercises its right to its own reserves, and yeah, it might take 10 years, but if Bill Clinton, former President, hadn't vetoed access into Alaska's reserves, we would be pumping a million to a million and a half barrels out a day. America uses, I think, what is it, 20 million barrels a day? We produce 5. Where would we be if President Clinton hadn't vetoed that? We would be a lot better off, folks, because the world produces about 85 million barrels a day and consumes 86, or thereabouts.

This has a lot of things around it: certainly money supply, value of the dollar, inflation, speculators, who knows what. But at its core, until we bridge to the next generation of fuel for our vehicles, we have a here-and-now problem at the gas pump, at the diesel pump, and at the American budget.

The families in this country are hurting, hurting; and if you're not hearing that on the other side of the aisle, you're not going home and listening. You can't hide forever on the ability to access America's resources. You can't stop the country from demanding a vote. Just one vote. Give us a vote, up-or-down, clean, simple, the way democracy is supposed to work here in this House. But no.

The appropriations process ground to a halt. There might be a vote on energy. Every other bill that might have anything to do with energy ground to a halt. Heck, even declaring a wild and scenic river in Massachusetts had to be pulled because it dealt with LNG. Ground to a halt.

This country is grinding to a halt. It's time for a change in how this Congress acts.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. The gentlewoman has no further speakers, but I wonder if the gentleman on the other side of the aisle yields back his time.

Mr. CASTLE. We do have an additional speaker.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. I will yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on our side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Delaware has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank the Speaker.

I thank my good friend from Delaware for allowing me to comment on a few of the comments that have been made by the gentlelady from New York and try to set the record straight a little bit.

The issue of the 68 million acres of leased land, of Federal land to gain access to oil reserves under Federal land of the United States isn't whether or not all of those have been used, it's

whether or not there is any oil underneath them. And the fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, as you well know is that in much of those areas, there is no oil underneath them, and you don't need to drill in every single acre to confirm there's no oil in adjacent acres. The technology is incredible today. So the fact that all haven't been drilled doesn't mean that the resources that are under those 68 million haven't been utilized, because they have. In fact, Mr. Speaker, 95 percent of the land that ought to be available for leasing has not been leased.

My good friend asked what happened on our watch. What happened when the Republicans were in charge. Well, Mr. Speaker, as you know, we passed the vast majority of these and they got held up in the Senate. They got held up because it requires 60 votes to move anything through the Senate. My suspicion though, Mr. Speaker, is that now there aren't 40 individuals who would stop these bills from moving forward, that the holdup is here in the House of Representatives.

My good friend from New York talks about all of the bills that have already been passed. Well, Mr. Speaker, the problem with that is that none of them, not one of them deals with increasing supply. They call it a law of supply and demand because it's a law. It's a law. If you increase the supply, you will decrease the cost at the pump. Americans know that.

Americans want a vote on supply. Mr. Speaker, give us a vote on supply. American energy for Americans.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Just to respond to my dear friend and colleague on the other side of the aisle, I'm very appreciative that you're supportive of the bill before us, but I want to point out that there is nothing in this bill that would in any way prevent drilling. In fact, they can drill now on 68 million acres of land on which they have a lease.

And we did have a vote, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle did not support the vote that would compel the oil industry to start drilling or lose permits on this 68 million acres of undeveloped Federal oil reserves which they are currently warehousing and keeping domestic supply lower and prices higher. I believe that's a very balanced premarket approach. Use it or lose it. Let someone else drill there.

And industry is only using a fraction of its leases now. And refining is not an issue. Refineries are running below capacity.

□ 1430

But we have enacted in law, past laws, that are laws now, the Energy Independence and Security Act. This historic Act would increase vehicle fuel efficiency to 35 miles per gallon, and this is the first congressional increase in more than three decades. And this would be very helpful.

And I'd like to place into the RECORD an entire list of laws that have been

enacted by this Democratic leadership, laws that are coming up to be considered, including cracking down on price gouging, and legislation that the House has passed and we're waiting for the Senate to act on: the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act, the Energy Price Gouging Prevention Act. These are all important concrete steps, not rhetoric, but concrete steps to help consumers.

NEW DIRECTION LEGISLATION

ENACTED INTO LAW

Energy Independence and Security Act in 2007—Historic energy legislation with provisions to combat oil market manipulation, increase vehicle fuel efficiency to 35 miles per gallon in 2020—the first Congressional increase in more than three decades—and promote the use of American biofuels. Signed into law, December 19, 2007.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act—Temporarily suspends the filling of the SPR, starting June 30th, to put more oil on the market to help drive down gasoline prices. Signed into law, May 19, 2008.

Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008—The new Farm Bill makes an historic commitment to more affordable American biofuels and increases Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) oversight authority to detect and prevent manipulation of energy prices. President Bush vetoed this bill, but the Congress overrode that veto.

RECENT AND UPCOMING LEGISLATION

Reducing Transit Fares (H.R. 6052)—Gives grants to mass transit authorities to lower fares for commuters pinched at the pump and expand transit services.

Cracking Down on Price Gouging (H.R. 6346)—Gives enforcement authority to the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and punish those who artificially inflate fuel prices.

"Use It Or Lose It" for Oil Companies Holding Permits and Not Drilling—Compels the oil industry to start drilling or lose permits on the 68 million acres of undeveloped federal oil reserves which they are currently warehousing, keeping domestic supply lower and prices higher.

Further Close the "Enron Loophole" for Petroleum Markets—Takes steps to curb excessive speculation in the energy futures markets, which experts have noted is driving up the price of a barrel of oil.

LEGISLATION THAT THE HOUSE HAS PASSED

Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act—Extends and expands tax incentives for renewable energy (including incentives for plug-in vehicles), retains and creates hundreds of thousands of green jobs, spurs American innovation and business investment, and cuts taxes for millions of Americans. The President has threatened a veto.

The Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act—Combats record gas prices by authorizing lawsuits against oil cartel members for price fixing, and creating an Antitrust Task Force to crack down on anticompetitive behavior or market manipulation. President Bush has threatened a veto.

Energy Price Gouging Prevention Act—This bill will provide consumer relief by giving the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) the authority to investigate and punish those who artificially inflate energy prices. President Bush has threatened a veto.

I'd like to remind my dear colleagues on the other side of the aisle that when President Bush came to office he had a \$5 trillion projected surplus. We now

have a series of records that have been given to us by the Republican leadership, only they are the wrong kinds of records.

We have record debt that is galloping towards \$9 trillion. Each and every American owes over \$30,000 to this debt. We have the largest trade deficit in the history of this country, over \$900 billion, and we have the largest deficit in the history of this country. We have lost more jobs in the first half of this year than have been lost since the Great Depression, and if we continue at this rate, we will lose over 1 million jobs in this year.

Now, that is the record of the Republican leadership. But what is before us is a very important bill, one that I support, one that I urge my colleagues to support. And I urge my colleagues to support consideration of H.R. 6184, and I hope that we will have a bipartisan commitment to passing this legislation.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act (H.R. 6184) introduced by the Gentleman from Delaware. It's a good bill and a good follow-up to his 50-State quarter bill we have all enjoyed. However, Madam Speaker, I would like to make a point in the process of supporting this bill.

The idea of following the State quarters by honoring national parks is a very good idea, and I salute Mr. CASTLE and his co-sponsors, Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. GUTIERREZ. I even want to suggest a place in my district as the one for the back of the New York quarter—the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, the beautiful summer home of former President Theodore Roosevelt, in Oyster Bay.

But that brings me to the point I'd like to make Mr. Speaker. Teddy Roosevelt, as the bill itself notes, is known as the first great champion of the country's National Parks, and in my view, the front of this new coin should bear the image of Teddy Roosevelt.

I, of course, mean no disrespect to George Washington. He was the Father of our Country, and his image has appropriately been on the one-dollar bill and the quarter. But I think, as a recent editorial in *Coin World* magazine pointed out, that it's about time we honor Teddy Roosevelt by placing his image on U.S. currency—after all, he's the only one of our four great Presidents honored on Mount Rushmore, who does not appear on a U.S. coin or banknote.

Mr. Speaker, I do not mean to criticize this legislation, and I intend to vote for it enthusiastically. But I hope all Members will think about the fact that without Teddy Roosevelt's championing of the ideas of conservation and National Parks, we would still have national parks, but the commitment to them would not have been as great, or so early. So, I hope the sponsors of this bill will work with me to help find a place somewhere in the U.S.

system of money for the image of the great Rough Rider on a coin or banknote.

With that I urge adoption of the bill. Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6184.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5541) to provide a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5541

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act" or "FLAME Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Flame Fund for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities.
- Sec. 3. Cohesive wildland fire management strategy.
- Sec. 4. Review of certain wildfires to evaluate cost containment in wildland fire suppression activities.
- Sec. 5. Reducing risk of wildfires in fire-ready communities.

SEC. 2. FLAME FUND FOR CATASTROPHIC EMERGENCY WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means the following:

(A) Public lands, as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(B) Units of the National Park System.

(C) Refuges of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(D) Lands held in trust by the United States for the benefit of Indian tribes or individual Indians.

(E) Lands in the National Forest System, as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and

Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(2) FLAME FUND.—The term "Flame Fund" means the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Fund established by this section.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term "Secretary concerned" means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to Federal land described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1); and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land.

(4) SECRETARIES.—The term "Secretaries" means the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting jointly.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF FLAME FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Fund.

(2) CONTENTS.—The Flame Fund shall consist of the following amounts:

(A) Amounts appropriated to the Flame Fund pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (c).

(B) Amounts transferred to the Flame Fund pursuant to subsection (d).

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Subject to subsection (e), amounts in the Flame Fund shall be available to the Secretaries to pay the costs of catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities that are separate from amounts annually appropriated to the Secretaries for the predicted annual workload for wildland fire suppression activities, based on analyses of historical workloads and anticipated increased workloads due to changing environmental or demographic conditions.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Flame Fund such funds as may be necessary to carry out this section. It is the intent of Congress that the amount appropriated to the Flame Fund for fiscal year 2009 and each subsequent fiscal year equal the average amount expended by the Secretaries for emergency wildland fire suppression activities over the five fiscal years preceding that fiscal year.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that the amounts appropriated to the Flame Fund that are above the average of the obligations of the preceding 10 years for wildland fire suppression in the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, adjusted for inflation, should be designated as amounts necessary to meet emergency needs, and the new budget authority and outlays resulting therefrom should not count for the purposes of titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(3) NOTICE OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDS.—The Secretaries shall notify the congressional committees specified in subsection (h)(2) whenever only an estimated two months worth of funding remains in the Flame Fund.

(d) TRANSFER OF EXCESS WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION AMOUNTS INTO FLAME FUND.—At the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary concerned shall transfer to the Flame Fund amounts appropriated to the Secretary concerned for wildland fire suppression activities for the fiscal year, but not obligated for wildland fire suppression activities before the end of the fiscal year.

(e) USE OF FLAME FUND.—

(1) DECLARATION REQUIRED.—Amounts in the Flame Fund shall be made available to the Secretary concerned only after the Secretaries issue a declaration that a wildland fire suppression activity is eligible for funding through the Flame Fund.